

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

March 18, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Sarah Souders, Chair
Donna Swihart
Amy Simpson
Mary Deitz
Maggie Ferry
Margaret Kavanaugh

Community Members/Guests:

Brita Bishop
Dorothy Erickson
Michelle McCrae

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Reported by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Sarah Sounders announced that her oldest son received straight As in school for the first time in his life.

Teresa Holt stated that there has been a bill introduced by Pete Petersen and Nancy Dahlstrom to get private insurance coverage for children with autism.

Teresa also announced that the State Board of Education is going to receive comment to accept an advanced nurse practitioner signing off for children's eligibility for autism and will hopefully issue some regulations.

Approval of the Past Minutes

Mary Deitz commented that she was mistakenly put as present on the face-to-face meeting minutes and she was actually not able to attend. Teresa Holt read the names of the people who were present at that meeting which include: Sarah Souders, Maggie Ferry, Meghan Johnson, Linda Borghols, Debbie Kitelinger, Sharon Schumacher, Sheila Sellers, Amy Simpson, Kris Johnston, Anna Attla, Molly Thompson and Margaret Kavanaugh.

Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from January and the minutes from February with the members present corrected. Maggie Ferry **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that they received a call from Representative Cissna's office regarding an issue about poor water quality in rural Alaska and children in those communities getting respiratory illnesses and often lifelong disabilities. Teresa is going to research it further and see if there is a bill being introduced and e-mail the committee with any information she

discovers.

What Teresa understands is that they want to do two things, education and improve water quality.

Review of APR Indicators for ILP

Committee Comments on Indicators 1 - 3

Brita Bishop commented that in regards to indicator 3, Shirley Pittz has a learning collaborative that's working with some ILP and mental health professionals to improve expertise at serving young children with socio-emotional delays and Brita felt that needed to be mentioned and that it might fit here. Amy Simpson responded by saying that indicator 3 is really measuring the progress that individual children make. They are rated when they enter ILP and when they exit ILP, and the way they measure that progress is fairly set in stone. Brita then noted that she understands that they are not trying to measure ways to improve the system, but they're trying to measure ways in which individual children are getting better.

Amy Simpson further explained that this year they are getting baseline data and at the end of next year they will have solid data that shows how many children had what variety of outcomes as a result of their time spent in early intervention.

Teresa Holt commented on Brita's suggestion and stated that if some of the activities that Shirley is doing is improving the training of staff at ILPs, then it could potentially improve outcomes, and she sees how that could fit under indicator 3.

Teresa Holt then explained that the improvement activities that the State is doing for indicator 1 include:

- ☒ Using an ongoing monitoring system
- ☒ Working on recruitment and retention so programs will be able to provide services in a timely manner
- ☒ Working with the SEED registry.

Teresa stated that indicator 2 is percent of children with IFSPs who receive

early intervention services in the home or in programs for typically developing children. The goal was 95 percent, the measurement was 96 percent, so there are no improvement activities under that indicator.

Indicator 4

Teresa Holt explained that indicator 4 is the percent of families participating in Part C for the report who report on three things: That early intervention services has helped their family know their rights, effectively communicates their child's needs, and helps their child develop and learn. Teresa read through the statistics related to the report and then read the recommendations. The recommendations were that they change some of the questions on the survey because one was a compound question and another needed clarification on what comprises child care.

Teresa Holt then explained that the improvement activities that the State is doing for indicator 4 include:

- ☒ Make revisions to current materials and increasing cultural appropriateness, appeal, readability of materials and method for delivery.

Teresa Holt suggested asking Erin Kinavey or Lisa Balivet to attend the next EIC meeting and give a report on this particular indicator.

Mary Deitz asked who sets the performance measures and wondered if funding is contingent upon meeting those measures. Amy Simpson replied that OSEP sets the standard and that the funding could be affected because if they don't meet the standard for a number of years in a row then they have one year to fix it. If they are still below the standard, then after that the funding could be sanctioned, and this is the same for all the indicators.

Mary Deitz also asked if these numbers are pretty typical. Amy Simpson replied that for this indicator, the numbers have gone down since the last time they did it. She believes that it's more a result of a better survey than it is services declining. The initial survey wasn't as scientific as this last survey was.

Teresa Holt asked if the State can break the data out by city and Amy

Simpson replied that they break it up by region to protect confidentiality.

Indicators 5 and 6

Teresa Holt explained that indicators 5 and 6 are similar, and that 5 is the percentage of children 0-1 with IFSPs compared to other states/national data, while 6 is percent of children 0-3 with IFSPs compared to other states/national data.

She explained that for indicator 5, Alaska had 1.14 percent and the national data is 1.05 percent. Alaska ranks 7th in the nation for the percent of children that are served in that infant-age group.

Teresa then explained that for indicator 6, Alaska had 1.94 percent of children in the state that had IFSPs, while the national data was 2.53 percent. Alaska ranks 35th in the nation.

Amy Simpson explained that this shows that they are doing a good job of identifying infants with fairly obvious disabilities. But then she notes that they should be doing a better job of identifying children throughout the entire spectrum to catch those children between 1 and 3.

Amy Simpson also noted that they are comparing Alaska's numbers to national prevalence studies. She also noted that the national birth to 3 rankings include all programs and not just moderate programs, which Alaska is classified as. She stated that some states have Part C eligibility at 20 or 25 percent so they have more children that qualify as Part C than the state of Alaska.

Teresa Holt then noted the improvement activities related to these indicators:

- ☑ Plans for local outreach be developed based on local providers needs, resources, and evidence of effective Child Find
- ☑ State ILP staff will continue to review year-end data with each program, numbers of children enrolled, and strategies to increase enrollment
- ☑ State will review the target with the ICC and provider organizations to identify potential strategies of improvements and to review the appropriateness of the target

- ☑ Public awareness strategies to be implemented and evaluated to ensure that program information is disseminated in a variety of ways including participation in health fairs, statewide conferences, brochures, parent mail outs and web based.

Teresa Holt asked the committee members to please give some thought to these indicators and be prepared to give comment and suggestions at the next meeting.

EIC/ILP Advocacy Plan – Alaska’s Kids Can’t Wait

Legislative Report

Teresa Holt stated that originally, the Governor had given them \$1.5 million for operating expenses for ILP programs. She had also put \$500,000 into the Governor’s Council budget for workforce development. The \$1.5 million was reduced to \$1 million and the \$500,000 was taken out, but then \$300,000 was put back in for workforce development. It has gone through the House and now needs to go through the Senate. The Senate subcommittee that will be working on this are Senator Olson, Senator Davis, Senator McGuire, Senator Meyer, and Senator Wielechowski.

Teresa stated that the Early Childhood Learning Network coordinator is still in the budget and has gone through, and there are various Head Start increases.

Teresa stated that as part of the federal stimulus package, there is a substantial amount of money for infant learning programs for pre-schools and for children with disabilities who are in school. She stated that people should be looking for discussions about that in their local areas and how that money should be used.

Review of the Work Plan

Research other states 619 positions vs. populations

Teresa Holt stated that Sharon is the 619 coordinator for Alaska. Teresa stated that they are going to research what other states who have similar populations like Wyoming, Montana and a few other states, and see if they

actually have a 619 coordinator or similar position. Teresa asked for volunteers to research this information. Amy Simpson volunteered and Teresa stated that she would help her with that.

ATTI E-Module

Teresa Holt stated that there is a whole crew down in Juneau working on this besides just Meghan and Sharon, and she thanked everyone who gave comments.

EIC and EI/ILP brochure distribution ideas

Teresa Holt stated that they have updated the EIC brochure. According to the work plan, updating the ILP brochure is Lisa Balivet along with Mary Deitz and group. Now they need to look at distribution for both brochures. Teresa will check with Erin to see if there is a plan and asked the committee for suggestions about how to get the ILP brochures out there as there doesn't seem to be a coordinated plan for distribution.

Amy Simpson commented that the brochures are currently distributed to physician's offices, WIC, OCS, and places such as that, but she's thinking that the point is to identify other people who may not know about them and that updates need to happen annually. Teresa Holt agreed that there are families out there in desperate need of infant learning services who are not getting the information.

Brita Bishop suggested having downloadable brochures available on different websites and more links as well. Brita also suggested making sure that the children's trust through OCS has infant learning information available through their parenting line.

Mary Deitz suggested that they could target support groups for young parents as well as approaching parents of older children of school age because they might also have a young child at home who needs services.

Transition Presentations – create a plan – who is interested?

Amy Simpson suggested that a small work group for this work plan item would be great and that it should contain someone from a pre-school program, someone from an ILP program and maybe a couple of parents.

Volunteers for this work group are: Sarah Souders, Amy Simpson, Sheila Sellers, Dorothy Erickson, and Mary Deitz.

Report from OCS/ILP

There was no one available from OCS/ILP to give a report.

Report from AILPA

Amy Simpson reported that they have been really focusing on getting information to the various ILP programs for the advocacy effort. She will take back to AILPA the discussion about the ILP brochure distribution to get feedback from them.

Report from DEED

Teresa Holt stated that they are on their way to becoming fully staffed. They have been very busy trying to get information and to understand the federal economic stimulus package and what it will mean for Alaska. She stated that there is two groups of money, money that comes through IDEA and money that goes to the Governor, which is more discretionary and the Governor can use it for different things. She encouraged everyone to access the AKSPED listserv for updates that are posted on there.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EIC will be on April 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.